

House Study Bill 561 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON LATHAM)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to emergency management services and emergency
2 medical services and including applicability provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 29C.9, subsections 1, 2, and 4, Code
2 2024, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. The county ~~boards~~ board of supervisors, city councils,
4 and the sheriff in each county shall cooperate with the
5 department to establish a commission to carry out the
6 provisions of this chapter.

7 2. The commission shall be composed of ~~a member~~ the members
8 of the board of supervisors, the sheriff, and the mayor from
9 each city within the county. A commission member may designate
10 an alternate to represent the designated entity. For any
11 activity relating to section 29C.17, subsection 2, or chapter
12 24, participation shall only be by a commission member or a
13 designated alternate that is an elected official from the same
14 designated entity.

15 4. For the purposes of this chapter, a commission is a
16 municipality as defined in section 670.1 and a municipality as
17 defined in section 24.2.

18 Sec. 2. Section 29C.17, subsections 2, 3, and 6, Code 2024,
19 are amended to read as follows:

20 2. For purposes consistent with this chapter, the local
21 emergency management agency's approved budget shall be funded
22 exclusively by one ~~or any combination~~ of the following options,
23 as determined by the commission:

24 a. A countywide special levy ~~pursuant to section 331.424,~~
25 ~~subsection 1~~ certified and levied by the commission at a rate
26 not to exceed thirty-five cents per one thousand dollars of
27 assessed value of taxable property to be used for the support
28 of the local emergency management agency, except for special
29 or unique services and operations, and a countywide additional
30 levy certified and levied by the commission at a rate not to
31 exceed one dollar per one thousand dollars of assessed value of
32 taxable property to be used only for special or unique services
33 and operations approved by the commission. "Special or unique
34 services and operations" means any of the following:

35 (1) Joint emergency response communications services

1 through an agreement entered into under chapter 28E, as
2 authorized in section 29C.9, subsection 6.

3 (2) Equipment of a countywide hazardous materials team.

4 (3) Equipment for a countywide community emergency response
5 team.

6 (4) Equipment for a countywide search, rescue, and recovery
7 team.

8 (5) Equipment for a countywide incident management support
9 team.

10 b. One or more of the following options:

11 (1) Per capita allocation funded from city and county
12 general funds or by a combination of city and county special
13 levies which may be apportioned among the member jurisdictions.

14 ~~e.~~ (2) An allocation computed as each jurisdiction's
15 relative share of the total assessed valuation within the
16 county.

17 ~~d.~~ (3) A voluntary share allocation.

18 ~~e.~~ (4) Other funding sources allowed by law, excluding a
19 countywide levy.

20 3. A If a local emergency management agency is funded
21 under subsection 2, paragraph "b", a political subdivision may
22 appropriate additional funds for the purpose of supporting
23 commission expenses relating to special or unique matters
24 extending beyond the resources of the agency.

25 6. Subject to [chapter 24](#), the commission shall adopt,
26 certify, and provide a budget, on or before February 28 of each
27 year, to the funding entities determined pursuant to subsection
28 2.

29 a. If a local emergency management agency is funded under
30 subsection 2, paragraph "b", the political subdivisions
31 provided a certified budget are responsible for certifying
32 their portion of the budget from city and county general funds
33 or by a combination of city and county special levies.

34 b. The form of the budget shall be as prescribed by the
35 department of management. Any A tax levied by the commission

1 under subsection 2, paragraph "a", or any portion of a tax
2 levied by a county or city to support the local emergency
3 management agency shall be identified separately on tax
4 statements issued by the county treasurer.

5 Sec. 3. Section 29C.17, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
6 following new subsections:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. If a commission is meeting the
8 financial obligations for implementation of its local emergency
9 management program and operation of the local emergency
10 management agency, the commission may reserve an amount
11 of unobligated and unencumbered funds, excluding amounts
12 reserved or obligated under the capital improvement plan under
13 subsection 8, for operations expenditure obligations in a
14 future fiscal year, not to exceed an amount equal to thirty
15 percent of the local emergency management agency's approved
16 budget for the fiscal year.

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Each commission shall, as part of the
18 local emergency management agency's budgeting process, adopt
19 a capital improvement plan that identifies large expenditures
20 or capital improvement projects and the funding sources
21 and financing of such projects for at least the subsequent
22 five fiscal years. Amounts reserved or obligated under a
23 capital improvement plan are not subject to the reserve amount
24 limitation under subsection 7. The local emergency management
25 agency's annual budgeting process shall include evaluation
26 of the activities undertaken and the progress made under the
27 capital improvement plan. The capital improvement plan may be
28 a part of a local emergency management agency's strategic plan,
29 as determined by the commission.

30 Sec. 4. Section 331.424, subsection 1, paragraph a,
31 subparagraph (9), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

32 (9) The maintenance and operation of a local emergency
33 management agency established pursuant to chapter 29C, unless
34 the agency is funded under section 29C.17, subsection 2,
35 paragraph "a".

1 not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value for special
2 or unique services and operations, as defined in the bill,
3 approved by the commission. The bill also specifies that the
4 local emergency management commission is a municipality for
5 purposes of Code chapter 24 (local budgets).

6 Code chapter 422D authorizes counties to impose a property
7 tax levy, an income surtax, or a combination of both taxes
8 within the county, excluding those areas within a benefited
9 emergency medical services district under Code chapter 357F, to
10 be used for specified emergency medical services costs, if the
11 taxes are approved at election.

12 The bill adds salaries and benefits of emergency medical
13 care providers, as defined in Code section 147A.1, to the
14 eligible expenditures from the county emergency medical
15 services trust fund under Code section 422D.6.

16 The bill also provides that if a commission is meeting
17 the financial obligations for implementation of its local
18 emergency management program and operation of the local
19 emergency management agency, the commission may reserve an
20 amount of unobligated and unencumbered funds, excluding amounts
21 reserved or obligated under the capital improvement plan, as
22 required under the bill, for expenditure obligations in a
23 future fiscal year, not to exceed an amount equal to 30 percent
24 of the local emergency management agency's approved budget for
25 the applicable fiscal year. As part of the local emergency
26 management agency's budgeting process, the bill requires the
27 commission to adopt a capital improvement plan that identifies
28 large expenditures or capital improvement projects and the
29 funding sources and financing of such projects. The local
30 emergency management agency's annual budgeting process must
31 also include evaluation of the activities undertaken and the
32 progress made under the capital improvement plan.

33 The bill applies to budgets for property taxes due and
34 payable in fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.